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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 AMMAN 001650

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR STATE NEA ATTN. LIZ CHENEY,
NEA/PPD MACINNES, BOURGEOIS,
NEA/RA KWALKER, GGRAPPO, HPierce, BKEARY, MSPIRNAK;
NEA/ARN SZIADEH,
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SUBJECT: MEPI: POST PLAN TO SUPPORT GROWTH OF GOOD
GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN AWARENESS

REF: SECSTATE 15081

1. POST'S INTERAGENCY MEPI COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF USAID, POL, ECON AND PA HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO ENCOURAGE GOOD GOVERNANCE IN JORDAN. OUR PLAN AIMS TO STRENGTHEN CITIZEN AWARENESS AND ACTIVISM THROUGH NGO'S AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND THE COURTS. GIVEN THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF JORDAN, WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE GOJ, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THAT DEMOCRATIC CHANGE CAN ONLY COME FROM AN ENLIGHTENED AND EMPOWERED JORDANIAN PEOPLE. CONTINUED PROGRESS IN THE OTHER TWO MEPI PILLARS, ESPECIALLY ECONOMIC REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT, WILL ALSO HELP CREATE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE. FOLLOWING IS OUR OVERALL PLAN, AND WE WILL REQUEST MEPI SUPPORT FOR SOME OF IT IN A "SCOPE OF WORK PROJECT FORMAT". OTHER PROJECTS WILL BE FINANCED OUT OF THE PASA AGREEMENT RECENTLY SIGNED AT POST BETWEEN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND USAID. OUR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THESE ACTIVITIES WILL, OF COURSE, DEPEND VERY MUCH ON POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONDITIONS IN JORDAN.

1A. ELECTION SUPPORT:

KING HAS DECLARED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FOR LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 17, WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO FOLLOW IN JULY. MISSION WILL ASSIST CANDIDATES, CAMPAIGN MANAGERS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL PARTIES BY OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT.

--ELECTION CAMPAIGN LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS FOR CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGN MANAGERS, INCLUDING SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR THE 40-60 FEMALE CANDIDATES EXPECTED TO RUN AND THEIR CAMPAIGN MANAGERS (PART OF A PROJECT ALSO SUGGESTED BY PLANNING MINISTER AWADULLAH - SPRING 03);
--WORKSHOPS FOR BROADCAST AND PRINT JOURNALISTS ON ELECTION COVERAGE (SPRING 03);
--CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS INFORMING VOTERS ON ELECTION PROCEDURES IN COOPERATION WITH GOJ AND MEDIA;
--SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL ELECTION MONITORS, IF THEY ARE APPOINTED (SPRING 03);
--MISSION TO SUPPORT THROUGH LOCAL NGO (JORDAN NATIONAL FORUM FOR WOMEN) A PHONE BANK FOR ALL FEMALE CANDIDATES THROUGH WHICH THEY CAN CONTACT THE CONSTITUENTS (SPRING 03);
--SPECIAL ORIENTATION VISITS TO U.S. UNDER INTERNATIONAL VISITOR AND OTHER PROGRAMS FOR NEWLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO FAMILIARIZE THEM WITH U.S, LEGISLATIVE PRACTICES (SUMMER 03);
--ORIENTATION VISIT AND TWO-WEEK TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE U.S. FOR NEWLY ELECTED FEMALE CANDIDATES (FALL 03);
--POSSIBLE CITIZENS' EXCHANGE PROGRAM AIMED AT DEVELOPING A CORE GROUP OF LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS (FALL 03);

1B. JUDICIAL REFORM

GOJ HAS MADE INCREASED CITIZEN CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY A TOP PRIORITY BOTH TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN RULE OF LAW DOMESTICALLY AND TO FOSTER A FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENT. MISSION PLANS FOLLOWING SUPPORT.

--RETURNED JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO DESIGN TRAINING FOR JUDICIAL PERSONNEL BASED ON THEIR U.S. EXPERIENCE PROVIDED THROUGH THE CITIZEN EXCHANGE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF DEVELOPING LEGAL SYSTEMS (SPRING 03);
--PILOT PROGRAMS IN CASE MANAGEMENT AND MEDIATION TO BE ESTABLISHED IN AQABA AND POSSIBLY OTHER JORDANIAN CITIES (FALL 03);
--PROGRAM TO TRAIN JUDICIAL MEDIATORS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN YARMOUK UNIVERSITY (FALL 03);
--JUDICIAL MEDIATION TO BE INTRODUCED AS PART OF THE CORE CURRICULUM TO LAW FACULTIES THROUGHOUT JORDAN (FALL 04);
--ENGLISH AND INTERNET TRAINING FOR JUDICIAL PERSONNEL TO BE EXPANDED (ONGOING);

1C. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

POST WILL SUPPORT WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE, PARTICULARLY THE ELECTIONS (SEE ABOVE), AND WILL ALSO SUPPORT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE FOLLOWING

ACTIVITIES.

- HELP ESTABLISH THE FAMILY PROTECTION PROGRAM, SUGGESTED BY MINISTER OF PLANNING AWADULLAH, INCLUDING CENTERS WHICH CAN DEFEND WOMEN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE CITIZENRY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (SPRING 03);
- ASSIST THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF JORDANIAN WOMEN IN CONDUCTING A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE 12 GOVERNORATES FOCUSING ON LEADERSHIP, MEDIA AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS AS WELL AS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS, ALSO PROPOSED BY PLANNING MINISTER (SPRING THROUGH FALL 03);
- CONDUCT LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PROSECUTING VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN (FALL-WINTER 03-04);
- SPECIAL ESL AND COMPUTER TRAINING FOR WOMEN ACTIVISTS (SPRING 03 AND ONGOING);
- CITIZENS' EXCHANGE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN'S NGO'S (SPRING THRU FALL 03);
- SUPPORT WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' RIGHTS AS A PRINCIPLE COMPONENT OF CIVIC EDUCATION AT THE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL AS PART OF MISSION'S CIVIC EDUCATION SUPPORT (SEE BELOW);
- SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S MEDIA CENTER, WHICH TRAINS AND ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS, THROUGH TRAINING AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS (SPRING THRU FALL 03);
- SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN AREAS RELATED TO INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR (ONGOING);
- PROMOTE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE SMALL, MEDIUM, AND MICRO ENTERPRISE SECTORS (ONGOING);
- ENCOURAGE THE EXPANSION OF WOMEN IN INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (SUMMER 03);
- PROVIDE BUSINESS EDUCATION TO YOUNG WOMEN (ONGOING);
- INFORM WOMEN OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS, LEADING TO A HEALTHIER, MORE PRODUCTIVE POPULATION THROUGH REDUCED FERTILITY (ONGOING);
- SUPPLY WOMEN WITH HIGH QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES TARGETED TO UNDER-SERVED REGIONS (ONGOING);

1D. FREE AND FAIR MEDIA

MISSION IS PROVIDING TRAINING AIMED AT RAISING THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OF JORDANIAN JOURNALISTS AND ENCOURAGING THE PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA TO PLAY A STRONGER ROLE IN RAISING CITIZEN'S AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE THIS EFFORT THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES.

- CONDUCT IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS AND WEB TRAINING FOR BROADCAST AND PRINT JOURNALISTS (SPRING 03 THRU FALL 04);
- SUPPORT THROUGH GRANTS FOR TRAINING AND EXCHANGES THE CENTER FOR THE DEFENSE OF JOURNALISTS, WHICH DEFENDS JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED OR CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS OF THE PRESS OR SECURITY LAWS (SPRING 03-FALL 04);
- SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRANCH OF THE NEWLY PROPOSED MIDDLE EAST TV IN AMMAN, WHICH WOULD GENERATE NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS PROGRAMS AND SERVE AS A MODEL FOR LOCAL BROADCAST PROFESSIONALS, PARTICULARLY JORDAN TV AND RADIO (SPRING 03);
- STRENGTHEN THE INSTRUCTION OF JOURNALISM AT JORDANIAN UNIVERSITIES (FALL03-04);

1E. TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

THE GOJ HAS PUBLICLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY AND EQUITABLE CONTRACTING AND PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AS A MEANS OF ENSURING THE CITIZEN'S CONFIDENCE AND FOSTERING A GOOD BUSINESS CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENT. IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF ACCEDING TO THE WTO'S GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL REQUIRE REFORMS IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS THAT WILL REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRAUD AND ABUSE. THE MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATED DURING SUMMER 02 IN MISSION WORKSHOPS ON TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT AND WE PLAN TO FOLLOW UP THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS.

- IMPLEMENT E-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE GOJ, INCLUDING A FULL BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING (ONGOING);
- TRANSFORM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF AQABA INTO A STREAMLINED, EFFICIENT, AND TRANSPARENT REGIONAL AUTHORITY (ONGOING);
- MODERNIZE THE NATIONAL AND AQABA CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING (ONGOING);
- INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE COMMERCIAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING OF LEGAL PERSONNEL (FALL 03);
- PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY WITHIN SIX GOJ AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES THROUGH A "CENTERS OF EXCELLENCY" PROGRAM THAT UTILIZES INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES IN PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICES;
- TRAIN OVER 20 BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS IN PUBLIC SECTOR ADVOCACY (ONGOING);
- SUPPORT THE GOJ PLAN TO ACCEDE TO THE WTO'S GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT, OPENING THE GOJ PROCUREMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION (ONGOING);
- SIMPLIFY INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS REGISTRATION PROCESSES AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS (ONGOING);
- SUPPORT PRIVATIZATION OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

(ONGOING);
--CONDUCT FOLLOW-ON WORKSHOPS FOR GOJ OFFICIALS, NGO'S AND JUDICIAL PERSONNEL ON ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY PRACTICES (SUMMER 03);
--SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS IN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (SUMMER 03);
--SUPPORT CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING FOR NGO'S DEDICATED TO MONITORING GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND CONTRACTING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR (FALL 03-04);
--THROUGH THE FULBRIGHT AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS SUPPORT JORDANIAN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTION AT THE UNIVERSITY TO INCLUDE A STRONG ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY COMPONENT (FALL 03-04);

F. CIVIC EDUCATION

BOTH THE EDUCATION MINISTRY AND JORDANIAN NGO'S HAVE SHOWN A STRONG MOTIVATION TO REFORM EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES TO ENCOURAGE TOLERANCE, RESPONSIBILITY, CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND INDEPENDENT THINKING AMONG YOUTH. WE WILL SUPPORT THEM THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS.

--THROUGH SPEAKERS, ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS AND WORKSHOPS, STRENGTHEN THE NEWLY FORMED, PAN-ARAB NGO "CIVITAS," WHOSE JORDANIAN MEMBER IS TRANSLATING A FOLLOW-ON TO THE "PROJECT CITIZEN" CIVIC TEXTBOOK SERIES FOR USE IN JORDANIAN SCHOOLS (FALL 03-04);
--SUPPORT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S PILOT 21ST CENTURY WORKPLACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH SEMINARS, EXCHANGES AND TRAINING BY VISITING U.S. EXPERTS WHICH INCLUDE A STRONG CIVIC COMPONENT (FALL 03-04);
--EXPAND THE "DIALOGUE OF CULTURES" BETWEEN JORDANIAN, U.S. AND OTHER STUDENTS THROUGH THE IEAR, GLOBE AND OTHER WEB-BASED EXCHANGE PROGRAMS (ONGOING);
--CONDUCT YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL, AIMED AT EXPOSING JORDANIAN STUDENTS TO U.S. BEST PRACTICES IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTARISM AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES (SUMMER 03);
--SUPPORT TEACHER EXCHANGES AND TRAINING IN THE U.S. THROUGH CITIZEN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE A STRONG CIVIC COMPONENT (SUMMER-FALL 03-04);
--ENCOURAGE THE STRENGTHENING OF PARENT-TEACHER PROGRAMS THROUGH SPEAKERS AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS (FALL 03-04);
--SUPPORT JTV'S NEW SESAME STREET SERIES (INTENDED FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS) AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE CIVIC AWARENESS (ONGOING);
--ENSURE THAT ESL ASSISTANCE TO THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM INCLUDES A STRONG CIVIC EDUCATION COMPONENT IN THE CONTENT-BASED ESL MATERIALS, CURRICULA AND TEACHING METHODOLOGY (ONGOING);
--INCLUDE A STRONG CIVIC EDUCATION COMPONENT IN THE SUMMER TRAINING COURSE AT THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE CENTER FOR 250 SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. (SUMMER 03)